

I am writing to oppose the lifting of the ban on cell phone use in aircrafts. I do not believe that such use would be safe. Indeed, there is no empirical evidence to show that it does not absolutely interfere with navigational instruments. When hundreds of lives are at stake during a flight, why introduce yet another risk? The use of cell phones could actually increase the risk of flight. It would give terrorists yet another tool to communicate and to plan hijackings, bombings, etc. Who is to say that terrorists in coach working in concert with terrorists in First Class could not coordinate their efforts using a cell phone and take over a plane in a matter of seconds? Cell phone use would also impair safety inside the cabin in case of an emergency. People just do not pay attention to their surroundings when on the cell phone. This has been proven time and again by car accidents worldwide. In an emergency situation, the last thing the flight attendants and other passengers need are further complications caused by a person on a cell phone who is just not paying attention. Finally, planes are already very cramped spaces. The use of cell phones would increase stress amongst passengers, increasing the likelihood of on-board scuffles and arguments. This also creates safety issues. People's lives are at stake on a plane. Although planes have become common and everyday, they still carry with them the potential for great disaster. For that reason, playing with safety by introducing cell phones is simply a bad idea. No conversation is so important that it cannot wait until a passenger gets to his or her destination. We have managed to do without cell phones on airplanes to date; there is no need to add them to flights at this stage in the game.